

## NHTSA 2013 Funding Performance Measures

### C-9. Reduce the number of drivers age 20 or younger involved in fatal crashes

#### Proposed Requirements for Strengthening GDL to Qualify for NHTSA Funding

These funding requirements will be finalized in late Spring 2013. Bold highlights the key points. Underlined portions are currently not a part of Colorado GDL law or practice.

##### 1. *Minimum Qualification Criteria*

- a. To qualify for a GDL Incentive Grant, the State must demonstrate **compliance with the minimum qualification criteria** specifically established by MAP-21.

##### 2. *Learner's Permit Stage*

- a. Applies to all **first-time drivers under the age of 21** who begin the licensing process.
- b. A "state may **not issue any other motor vehicle permit or license** (including a motorcycle permit or license), to a young, novice driver **until he or she completes a GDL program.**"
  - i. States that enacted a law prior to January 1, 2011, establishing exemptions for farm permits or hardships may be **grandfathered** in.
- c. Applicants for a permit must **pass "vision and knowledge tests**, including tests about the rules of the road, signs, and signals."
- d. "As required by MAP-21, the learner's permit stage must be at least **six months** in duration, and it also may not expire until the driver reaches at least **16 years of age.**"
- e. **Requires "accompaniment and supervision by a licensed driver** who is at least 21 years of age at all times while the learner's permit holder is operating a motor vehicle."
- f. **Requires "receipt by the permit holder of at least 40 hours of behind-the-wheel training** with a licensed driver who is at least 21 years of age."
  - i. "It does not specify that the training be provided by a public or private organization; such training may be provided by anyone who possesses a valid unrestricted driver's license and is at least 21 years of age, including individuals or professional driving instructors."
- g. **Requires "completion by the permit holder of a driver education or training course."**
  - i. requires "that the course attended by the permit holder be **certified** by the State"
  - ii. "encourages States to consider establishing driver training curriculum standards based on the national standards recommended in the **Driver Education Working Group**"
- h. "Requires a learner's permit holder to **pass a driving skills test** prior to entering the intermediate stage or being issued another permit, license or endorsement."

##### 3. *Intermediate Stage*

- a. Applies to all **first-time drivers under the age of 21** who begin the licensing process.
- b. Commences immediately at the end of the learner's permit stage.
- c. "The intermediate stage must be in effect for a **period of at least six months**"
- d. **The intermediate stage "may not expire** until the driver reaches at least 18 years of age."
- e. State's intermediate stage must **restrict driving at night, 10 p.m. through 5 a.m.**
  - i. provides for exceptions in the case of **emergency**, it **does not permit other exceptions during the restricted driving hours**
  - ii. require **accompaniment and supervision** of the intermediate license holder by a licensed driver who is at least 21 years of age for proper restriction for nighttime driving
- f. "During the intermediate stage, drivers must be **prohibited from** operating a motor vehicle with **more than one non-familial passenger** younger than 21 years of age unless a licensed driver who is at least 21 years of age is in the motor vehicle."

##### 4. *Additional Requirements*

- a. "During both the learner's permit and intermediate stages, the driver must be **prohibited from using a cellular telephone or any communications device** while driving except in case of an emergency."
  - i. Requires "that this prohibition be enforced as a **primary offense.**"
- b. "During both the learner's permit and intermediate stages, the driver must **remain conviction-free for a period of not less than six consecutive months** immediately prior to the expiration of the current stage."
  - i. "any conviction related to the use or operation of a motor vehicle would result in "resetting the clock" for the driver's current stage."
- c. Requires **license distinguishability** similar to the regulations for the predecessor GDL program—specifically "that the State's learner's permit, intermediate license, and full driver's license be distinguishable from each other."